

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the rejection contained in the final rejection Office Action of January 14, 2000 is respectfully requested.

All claims pending in the application, namely 1-11, remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 grounds as being indefinite; and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smigo; and under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Smigo further in view of either Oliver or Kobayashi, and over Kono or Kashiwazaki in view of Smigo.

INDEFINITENESS REJECTIONS

Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 2 and added independent Claim 12 to clarify the structure of the recording sheet and to overcome the Examiner's objections stated in ¶ 2 of the Office Action. No new matter has been introduced by new claim 12 since it is only a combination of the limitations contained in claims 1 and 2.

The remaining claims have been amended to reflect the proper claim dependency. In addition, claim 5 and the specification have been amended to reflect proper antecedent basis for the molecular weight range of the copolymers of the invention. The molecular weight is a weight average molecular weight.

Accordingly, Applicants' believe the Examiner's § 112 rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 11 stand rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smigo. As now amended, independent claim 12 particularly defines the invention as receiving sheets for ink jet printing comprising a copolymer of vinyl alcohol and vinylamine and a binder or mixture of binders.

Smigo discloses a layer comprising a copolymer of vinyl alcohol and vinyl amine, however, unlike the present invention, no other binders are present. The invention claims are now

structurally different than Smigo et al. Thus, the Examiner's rejection under § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

The pending claims also remain rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smigo et al., alone, or in view of Oliver et al. or Kobayashi et al.; and as being unpatentable over Kono et al. or Kashiwazaki et al. Applicants respectfully disagree and refer the Examiner to the previous amendment submitted wherein arguments were presented to overcome these cited references.

Applicants assert these prior arguments are now fully supported by the pending claims and overcome the prior art. The now defined structure of the invention claims provides a recording sheet comprised of a particular copolymer structure and a binder which is not taught or suggested by the prior art either alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Reconsideration of this application and allowance of Claims 3-12 are hereby requested. If a telephone interview would be useful to advance this case, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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